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**From:** Shore, Berry  
**Sent:** Mon 12/5/2016 12:42:05 PM  
**Subject:** PFOA/PFOS Clips

## **Two more months of Newburgh blood testing**

Dec. 2, 2016

Mid-Hudson News.com

NEWBURGH – At least two more months of voluntary blood testing in and around the City of Newburgh are being scheduled.

Seven days in November were set aside by the state Health Department to draw blood from people who live and work in the greater Newburgh area. The purpose is to determine if anyone has effects of the carcinogenic chemical PFOS that was discovered months ago in Newburgh's drinking water supply in Washington Lake.

City Councilman Torrance Harvey termed "awesome," the news of more testing dates.

"I have been getting reports that they have been getting far more than they had anticipated who were signing up to register for the free blood testing in the City of Newburgh and I even believe they opened things up to the neighboring towns like the towns of Newburgh and New Windsor, and there was such a high demand that they didn't have enough funding and weren't prepared to service the amount of people who signed up for free blood testing," Harvey said.

Since it was discovered, the spigot was turned off and the New York City Catskill Aqueduct has been the source of water for the City of Newburgh.

Because of the large volume of people who showed up to have blood drawn in November, nine more days were established in December and others will be set for January.

The dates in December are 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19 and 20. Testing will be conducted at the Cornerstone Family Healthcare headquarters at 147 Lake Street in Newburgh.

Health Department spokesman J.P. O'Hara said dates for additional blood testing in January have yet to be announced. He said results of the individual tests have not come back from the lab.

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### **State expands testing for residents exposed to toxic chemical in water**

Posted by Leonard Sparks on December 2, 2016

By Leonard Sparks  
Times Herald-Record

CITY OF NEWBURGH – The state Department of Health has added new testing dates as nearly 3,000 residents from Newburgh and the surrounding towns have requested to have their blood screened for the toxic chemical behind the closure of the city's primary drinking water supply.

About 2,900 residents have requested to have their blood tested for perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, according to DOH. Completed tests as of Thursday numbered 287.

Testing will continue to take place at Cornerstone Family Healthcare, 147 Lake St. in Newburgh, on the following dates:

Saturday, Dec. 3

Thursday, Dec. 8

Friday, Dec. 9

Saturday, Dec. 10

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Thursday, Dec. 15

Saturday, Dec. 17

Tuesday, Dec. 20

More dates are being arranged for January, according to DOH.

Anyone interested in being tested can call DOH's Bureau of Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology at 518-402-7950 or email [beoe@health.ny.gov](mailto:beoe@health.ny.gov).

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## **Vermont officials find PFOA and PFOS contamination at three landfills**

Dec. 4, 2016

Glens Fall PostStar.com

BENNINGTON, Vt. — Hazardous chemicals linked to cancer and other illnesses have been found near three Vermont landfills.

Vermont Public Radio reports the chemicals PFOA and PFOS have been found in groundwater near landfills in Bennington, Shaftsbury and Halifax. The hazardous chemicals were once used in manufacturing. PFOA has been found in private wells in Bennington and the municipal water supply in Pownal.

A former Chemfab plant in North Bennington is the suspected site of the contamination. Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation has started testing landfills that may have accepted waste from the plant.

Groundwater near a Bennington landfill is testing far above Vermont's safe water limit.

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## **Testing for Pearse Group to Appear Before Council**

By Jeffr McMenemy

Dec. 5, 2016

Seacoastonline.com

PORTSMOUTH — The Testing For Pease advocacy group will appear before the City Council on Monday night to give city officials an update on the continuing efforts to deal with toxic chemicals in the water at the former Pease Air Force Base.

Andrea Amico, the Portsmouth mother who fought to have blood testing available after a city-owned well became contaminated with PFCs, will make the presentation along with her two Testing for Pease co-founders, Alayna Davis and Michelle Dalton, both of Dover.

Amico said the group's founders were asked to appear at the City Council meeting by City Councilor Nancy Pearson, to give an update to city officials.

"The council has not heard from the community since February when ATSDR (the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) came to talk about forming the CAP (Pease Community Assistance Panel)," Amico said Friday. "She thought it would be a good idea for us to update the council."

Like Amico, Dalton and Davis have had children who attended one of the two day cares at Pease International Tradeport and later learned the city's Haven Well had been contaminated with high levels of PFCs.

"We want to highlight some of the action items done this year, including the formation of the CAP and the RAD (the Air Force's Restoration Advisory Board)," Amico said.

Portsmouth closed its Haven well at Pease International Tradeport in May 2014 after the Air Force found levels of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, or PFOS, 12.5 times higher than what was then the EPA's provisional health advisory.

The EPA classifies PFOS and perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, as “contaminants of emerging concern.” PFOS and PFOA are a class of PFCs. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry states PFCs may affect the developing fetus and child, including possible changes in growth, learning and behavior. They also may decrease fertility and interfere with the body’s natural hormones, increase cholesterol, affect the immune system and increase cancer risk.

The EPA has since set a substantially lower permanent health advisory for PFOS and PFOA.

“We really want to give a high level overview of what’s been done and what needs to be done,” Amico said.

The community is anxious to hear about the “post water data” from the Smith and Harrison wells at the tradeport, since “the carbon filters have been installed,” Amico said.

She hopes city officials will “continue to advocate at the state and federal level for better communication” with regulators and urged state and federal officials “to improve communication with the community.”

She stressed the issue of PFCs contaminating water continues to be an issue elsewhere in New Hampshire and across the nation.

The scheduled appearance for the Testing For Pease co-founders comes after the Conservation Law Foundation told the Portsmouth Herald last week that a test of surface water taken from Breakfast Hill adjacent the Coakley landfill showed levels of PFCs nearly three times the permanent lifetime health advisory level for drinking water.

The Conservation Law Foundation conducted the tests on three samples taken from surface water around the landfill after state Rep.-elect Mindi Messmer approached the

group with her concerns about contaminants leaching from the Superfund site, Great Bay–Piscataqua waterkeeper Jeff Barnum said last week.

The sample taken from Berry's Brook on Breakfast Hill on Nov. 2 showed a level of PFOS at 50.9 parts per trillion and PFOA at 144 parts per trillion, Barnum said. The combined health advisory level for PFOS and PFOA set by the Environmental Protection Agency is 70 parts per trillion.

Barnum described the levels as “incredibly high PFC numbers,” and said they were surprised to see them. The high levels show the need for the Coakley Landfill Group to immediately provide safe, clean, municipal water to people living around the landfill who have residential wells, he said.

“The sample was one sample in one place on a given day still during fairly dry weather conditions,” Barnum said. “It’s an indicator that should say to everyone we need to jump on this today. We have people at risk, we have kids at risk, our interest should be in correcting those problems.”

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### **Coakley Landfill Group must act now**

Sunday

Posted Dec 4, 2016 at 2:01 AM

Seacoastonline.com

There should be growing urgency from the Coakley Landfill Group, N.H. Department of Environmental Services and Environmental Protection Agency to act to deal with the toxic impacts of the Superfund cleanup site.

The most recent pressure is the test of surface water around the former landfill in North Hampton and Greenland by the Conservation Law Foundation, which found unsafe levels of toxic chemicals. Those tests sampled water from Berry's Brook, Little River and Bailey's Brook.

The sample from Berry's Brook on Breakfast Hill Nov. 2 detected perfluorooctane sulfonic acid at 50.9 parts per trillion and perfluorooctanoic at 144 parts per trillion. The combined health advisory level for PFOS and PFOA set by the Environmental Protection Agency is 70 parts per trillion.

The test of water from Little River was non-detect for PFOS, but 10.8 parts per trillion for PFOA. A test of a water sample from Bailey's Brook near West Road in Rye was non-detect.

The EPA classifies PFOS and PFOA, as "contaminants of emerging concern" and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry lists a host of possible health impacts from PFCs including cancer.

What more proof does the Coakley Landfill Group need to take the first and most important step of extending existing water lines to homes and businesses around the landfill now using wells? Not only are people using nearby wells at risk of harm from toxins that may enter or have entered their water, but the wells themselves are potentially drawing the plume of suspected carcinogens farther from the landfill.

Whereas the Coakley Landfill Group is resistant to extending existing water lines, it is increasingly imperative for the DES and EPA to act. If they don't, one can image the Conservation Law Foundation will take legal measures to spur action. It should.

The unfolding situation around the Coakley landfill should prompt renewed reviews of the efficacy of capped, unlined landfills to contain contaminants across the country. Landfills are not going away and even properly functioning caps have lifespans that will be exceeded by the waste beneath them.

Coakley landfill received waste from 1972 to 1982 and then received incinerator residue from the Portsmouth refuse-to-energy facility at Pease Air Force Base until 1985. It was capped in 1998, but based on multiple tests of water, first in wells and now of surface water, the cap is not containing the rotting waste beneath it.

Berry's Brook originates at the edge of the landfill and runs through Rye, dumping into Little Harbor near Odiorne Point.

"These persistent substances of emerging concern are streaming literally down Berry's Brook, well beyond the confines of the groundwater management zone at Coakley," said Great Bay-Piscataqua waterkeeper Jeff Barnum, who works for the CLF. "When the PFCs get in water, they are persistent and they move easily and they don't degrade."

Fully restricting the flow of water in and out of Coakley and other landfills is difficult at best. The solution to stopping the migration of contaminants is not readily apparent, nor readily applied, and it would be years before success can be verified. As it has been all along, the first step in moving toward a better management of the toxic impact of Coakley is to extend the water lines to minimize the most immediate risk to people and then start work toward minimizing the overall environmental impact.

It is time for the Coakley Landfill Group, which is led by the city of Portsmouth, to stop its bureaucratic shirking of the responsibility to do the right thing.

"No one person or entity has the right to pollute public waters," Barnum said. "And those that do need to be held accountable."

LinkedIn

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## **Joint base to test private wells for PFOA, PFOS**

By Kristina Scala Nasuti, staff writer

Dec 2, 2016

The Intelligencer

JOINT BASE McGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST — Officials at the joint base have authorized



the testing of hundreds of private wells in five municipalities for an unregulated chemical compound found in firefighting foam.

Data released Nov. 29 by base officials showed some wells at 21 on-base sites have levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) that far exceed the federal Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory levels of 70 parts per trillion.

Levels ranged from a low of 72 ppt to a high of 264,300 ppt at 138 wells at the sites, with levels above the health advisory. More than two dozen wells at those same sites showed no detectable levels of the chemicals, officials said.

As a result of the high levels, private wells closer to the installation's boundary line in New Hanover, Pemberton Township and portions of Manchester, Jackson and Lakehurst in Ocean County need to be tested, said Curtis Frye, chief of the joint base's Environmental Restoration Program.

Contractors hired by the base will begin going door to door the week of Dec. 5 to determine the location of private wells and get permission from owners to test their wells, Frye said.

"We're going to be working as quickly as we can to find potential wells that should be sampled and sample those wells and see what the results are," he said.

Results should be ready from 30 to 45 days after water samples are taken.

There are about 1,200 private wells and 87 municipal wells within a 2-mile radius of the joint base, according to state Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Larry Hajna.

Many of the private wells are in the Browns Mills section of Pemberton Township, which is less than a mile from the wastewater discharge area, where contaminated water has seeped into the ground. The military's water tests show a combination of PFOA and PFOS present in 1,579 ppt in groundwater at that discharge site.

Frye said municipal wells, including two in Lakehurst and four in Pemberton Township, won't be tested at this time. Municipal wells in Pemberton Township were previously tested under the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 and showed no signs of the contaminant. Officials said Lakehurst's municipal wells are 900 feet deep, so they pose little risk for contamination.

Meanwhile, the base has ordered additional tests at a closed fire station on the McGuire portion of the base, at a location where treated wastewater was discharged on Fort Dix, and at a former firefighting school and a former fire training site on the Lakehurst section. Testing will also be conducted at some monitoring wells near the base's boundary lines, officials said.

The water testing is part of the military's investigation of chemical contamination at the base and outside it. As detailed in a May investigative report by this news organization, the chemicals originated in firefighting foam used widely at the base for decades.

And like many other bases, hundreds of thousands of gallons of foam, which contains PFOS and PFOA, have been released at the base over decades of firefighting and training exercises there.

Despite the foam seeping into the groundwater and soil at the base, officials said the chemical commonly found in the fire suppressant didn't make its way into the base's main public drinking water systems.

However, because the unregulated chemical has contaminated drinking water systems elsewhere in the country, the Air Force, EPA and DEP have taken steps to ensure contamination has not spread to drinking water systems on and off the base.

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## **PFOA Found Near Three Landfills**

Dec 2, 2016

By Howard Weiss-Tisman

Vermont Public Radio

The Department of Environmental Conservation has uncovered new sources of PFOA and PFOS, two hazardous chemicals that were used in manufacturing.

PFOA is a suspected carcinogen and it's been discovered in more than 270 private wells in Bennington and in a municipal water supply in Pownal.

DEC Commissioner Alyssa Schuren says that as the state has been trying to address the polluted water in those two towns, it's moved beyond to begin testing landfills that may have accepted waste from the former Chemfab plant in North Bennington, which is the suspected source of the contamination.

"What we're doing right now is really just a natural evolution of learning how to manage a new chemical," Schuren says. "Once we get all the results back we'll be able to assess that and determine how we should be managing landfills statewide."

So far 10 landfills have been tested in Bennington and Windham counties.

The chemicals have already been found near landfills in Shaftsbury and Bennington, and in the past month three more sites have tested above the state limit.

Groundwater near the Burgess Brothers Landfill in Bennington had PFOA and PFOS at more than 1,000 parts per trillion.

Vermont has set its safe water limit at 20 parts per trillion.

Schuren says the chemicals have also been found near the Putney Paper Landfill and near the Halifax municipal landfill, though those levels are only slightly above the state limit.

And so far the chemicals haven't been detected beyond the landfills.

"We have not found any residential wells that have been impacted around these landfills," Schuren says. "We are testing residential wells as these results come back."

Landfills routinely check their groundwater for contamination of a variety of chemicals and Schuren says the southern Vermont landfills are now checking for the PFOA and PFOS.

She said landfills in Dover, Sunderland, and Pownal have been tested, and do not show levels above the state limit.

Results from the Windham Solid Waste District in Brattleboro are still pending.

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## **Delinquent account numbers level, abatements down**

By Edward Damon

Posted Friday, December 2, 2016 6:00 am

Bennington Banner

BENNINGTON - The number of unpaid property tax bills are on track to be similar to past years.

And how PFOA contamination will affect property values is unclear.

Property tax bills were mailed out in August and were due by Nov. 10. Of the approximately 5,700 property bills mailed out, about 500 represent delinquent accounts, according to town treasurer Joan Pinsonneault.

"Our average delinquency is usually between 7 and 9 percent, and that's where it is again," Pinsonneault said this week.

State law allows property owners to use the abatement process to request they not pay some or all of their property taxes. The Board of Abatement is slated to meet Monday to hear requests from Bennington property owners.

Pinsonneault said she'll present several requests for abatement. Those represent a few properties damaged by fire, or errors made by property owners when filing for a homestead declaration. There are fewer abatement requests than in past years, she said.

"I think it's one of smallest abatement lists I've had," she said.

The Board of Abatement is made up of the justices of the peace, Select Board, listers, and the treasurer, all elected officials. The board can abate some or all taxes on a property if a person has died insolvent, been removed from the state, or is unable to pay their taxes, interest and collection fees; if taxes represent a manifest error or mistake by the listers; and if property was lost or destroyed during the tax year.

"For people unable to pay taxes, that's a difficult thing for someone to go through," Pinsonneault said.

She said some people have asked the collections office if adjustments would be made on homes impacted by PFOA, a man-made chemical that turned up in drinking wells. But the abatement process is related to the property tax bill, not assessed value. A homeowner faced with PFOA in their drinking well would have to grieve the assessed value of their property, she said.

PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid, turned up in 270 wells around Bennington and North Bennington since the state began testing in February. Saint-Gobain, which owned the suspected contamination source, the former ChemFab plant in North Bennington, paid to install water treatment filters on impacted wells. Negotiations between the state and the company about extending municipal water lines are reportedly ongoing. In May, residents filed a class action lawsuit which alleged, in part, the contaminant would lead to a decline in property values.

It's not clear how PFOA will affect properties' assessed value.

"At this point we don't have a lot of information," Assessor John M. Antognioni said.

He said his office has already received 10 grievances for fiscal 2017, but none cited the presence of PFOA as the reason. Of those received during tax grievance period in fiscal 2016, only two listed PFOA. Tax grievances are made after the grand list of all property in the town is published each year on April 1. The assessment changes when a material change is made to a property - if the owner adds a deck or addition to their home, for example - or if the owner grieves the assessment, he said.

There isn't enough market data to show just how much PFOA will affect a property's value, Antognioni said.

"We'll know a lot more when we get to next spring when we get close to that [April 1] deadline," he said.

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